

FOUNDING
CHARTER OF
RIVINGTON FREE
SCHOOL OF QUEEN
ELIZABETH 1
1566



Paul Lacey, 2004

Founding Charter of Queen Elizabeth I for Rovington (alias Rivyngton) Free Grammar School 1566

Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &-c., to all men to whom these, our present letters shall come, sends greeting : Be it known to yon that upon the humble suit made to us by the Reverend Father in God, and our well-beloved James, Bishop of Durham, for our faithful liege people, inhabiting the village or hamlet of Rovington, otherwise called Rivyngton, within the parish of Bolton-hi-the-Moors, in our County of Lancaster, and within the Diocese of Chester, for a Grammar School, there to be erected and established for ever, for a continual bringing up, teaching, and learning of children and youth of the village or hamlet of Rovington or Rivyngton ; and also of other villages and hamlets near, adjoining the same, and of other our faithful and liege people whosoever they be, to be taught, instructed, and learned thereof, of our special grace, and sure knowledge and mere motion, we will grant, and ordain for us our heirs and successors, that hereafter there be and shall be one Grammar School in the aforesaid village or hamlet of Rovington *alias* Rivyngton, which shall be called 'The Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth,' for the bringing up, teaching, and instructing of children and youth in grammar and other good learning, to continue for ever. And we, by these presents, do erect, ordain, create, found, and establish the school of one master or teacher, and one usher, or under teacher, for ever to continue.. And that our aforesaid purpose may have and take the better effect, and that the lands, tenements, rents, revenues, and other things to be granted, assigns, and appointed to the maintenance of the aforesaid school hereafter may be the better governed for sure continuance of the said school, we will ordain, and for us, our heirs and successors, do grant by these presents that hereafter there be, and shall be for ever, within the village or hamlet of Rovington, *alias* Rivyngton, or within the villages or hamlets next adjoining, six of the discreetest and honestest Men dwelling in the said villages and hamlets for the time being, which shall be called Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the Free Grammar School, that is called, and to be called the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth in Rovington, *alias* Rivyngton, in the County of Lancaster. And, therefore, know ye, that we have assigned, chosen, nominated, and appointed for us, our heirs and successors. and do appoint our well-beloved Thomas A. Shaw, Esq., George Pilkington, Esq. Thomas Shaw, Richard Rivington, John Green, and Ralph Whittle, for to be and shall be the first Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods, of the said Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth in Rovington, Alias Rivyngton, in the County of Lancaster, well and truly to execute and occupy the said office from the day of the date of these presents, for and during their lives, so that they use themselves well and faithfully towards the said schools, And that the said Governors in deed, fact, and name, hereafter be and shall be one body corporate and politick of themselves for ever,

incorporated and created by the name of Governors, of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, in Rovington, alias Rivyngton, in the county of Lancaster. And we do incorporate them by these presents to be Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth in Rovington, alias Rivyngton in the said County of Lancaster, and we do create, erect, ordain, make, appoint, and establish them by these presents really and fully to be a body corporate and politick by the same to continue for evermore. And, furthermore, WE WILL and by these presents we ordain for us, our heirs, and successors, that the said governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth of Rovington, alias Rivyngton, in the County of Lancaster, may have and shall have a continual succession ; and by the said name be and shall be able persons, and by the law capable to get and receive to them and their successors, being Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the same Free Grammar School, manors, lands, tenements, tithes, possessions, revenues, and hereitaments, and also goods and chattels whatsoever, of us, our heirs, and successors, or of any other person or persons whatsoever. And also we ordain, grant, and decree by these. presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, that so often, and whomsoever it happened anyone or more of the aforesaid six Governors for the time being. or any other that shall be hereafter, for to die, or otherwise, were to dwell out of the town or hamlet of Rovington, alias Rivyngton, and other the towns and hamlets next adjoining', or with their family to depart thence, or for their demerits and offences to be removed from the said office, that then and so often it may well, and shall be lawful to all the other aforesaid Governors then living and dwelling with their families within the said village or hamlet of Rovington *alias* Rivyngton and other villages and hamlets next adjoining, to choose and take unto them other eight (8) of the wisest, discreetest. and wisest learned men inhabiting the towns aforesaid, which being joined with the aforesaid Governors and with schoolmaster of the school aforesaid, shall choose and nominate one other meet person of the inhabitants of the village or hamlet of Rovington or Rivyngton, and other villages and hamlets next thereto adjoining, into the place or places of him or them so dead, deceased, or so with their families departed as is aforesaid, or of him or them that is removed from his or their office, who shall succeed and follow in the said office of Governors, and he to be considered as chosen, and be chosen, whom they all or the greatest part of them aforesaid judge and think meet to be chosen, and thus to do as often as it shall chance any room to be void. Furthermore, we will that this election be made within one month next following the vacation of any of tile said Governors, and to be ended on the same day on which it is begun. And if the said election be not made in form aforesaid, then shall he be taken as chosen and be chosen only whom James, now Bishop of Durham, shall think meet to be chosen, and after his death he whom tile Master of the College of *St.* John the Evangelist, in the University of Cambridge, with the consent of two of the Governors aforesaid, shall name shall be taken and received for a Governor, so that he, the said -Master, shall appoint shall dwell within the aforesaid towns. And

furthermore, we will, and for us, our heirs, and successors, grant by these presents to the aforesaid Governors and their successors, that they for ever and hereafter may have a common seal to serve for their cause and business and their successors, whatsoever are to be done. And that the said Governors and their successors shall and may, by the name of the aforesaid Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth in Rovington *alias* Rivyngton in tile County of Lancaster, may plead and be impleaded, defend and be defended, answer, and be answered in all manner of courts and places, and before any kind of judge or judges, and in what causes actions, business, suits, complaints, pleas, and demands, of what kind, nature, or condition soever they be, or for any offences, transgressions things causes, or matters, by any person or persons made or done, or to be made or done by any person or persons in or upon the premises, or any parcel thereof or touching or concerning any thing specified in these presents, after the manner and form as other liege people of this our realm of England, being able per-sons and in law capable may plead, and be impleaded, answer and be answered, defend and be de-ended.

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